REMARKS

1.   In response to the final Office Action mailed April 21, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-19 were last presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action, all pending claims were rejected.   Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 14 and 17 have been amended. No claims have been canceled, or added in this paper. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-19 will remain pending in this application. Of these seventeen (17) claims, three (3) claims (claim 1, 14 and 17) are independent.   Based only on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Examiner Interview

2.   Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for extending Applicants' representatives the courtesy of a telephonic interview on July 14, 2005. During the Interview, the Applicants' representatives and the Examiner discussed the Kulkarni reference and the claims of the present application.

Claim Rejections

3.   Claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,848,243 to Kulkarni, *et al.* (hereinafter, "Kulkarni") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,527 to McCormack, *et al.* (hereinafter, "McCormack"). Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

4.   Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable for at least the reason that Kulkarni does not teach or suggest a "visual representation including two or more network segments each visually distinguishable from any other network segment included in the visual representation, wherein said visual representation of each of said network segments comprises a plurality of network devices which satisfy said selected filter criteria..." In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner relied on Fig. 2 of Kulkarni and its corresponding description at col. 3 lines 42-47 of Kulkarni. Fig. 2 discloses a screen display including a

viewer in which the topology of the system (logical or physical) may be displayed. Figure 2 of Kulkarni, however, does not illustrate visually distinguishable network segments where the network segments include a plurality of network devices which satisfy selected filter criteria.

5.   The Examiner also relied on Figures 4A-4C of Kulkarni in the Office Action. However, these figures and their associated description reveal that they too fail to disclose or suggest a "visual representation including two or more network segments each visually distinguishable from any other network segment included in the visual representation, wherein said visual representation of each of said network segments comprises a plurality of network devices which satisfy said selected filter criteria..." as recited in Applicants' claim 1. For example, Figure 4A merely illustrates a view of several routers in a network; Figure 4B illustrates a view including only two of the routers that a particular user desires to monitor; and Figure 4C illustrates the display after another router is added. None of these Figures illustrate multiple network segments each comprising a plurality of network devices which satisfy selected filter criteria in a manner analogous to that recited in claim 1.

6.   McCormack, the secondary reference relied on by the Examiner, does not cure these efficiencies in Kulkarni. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references for at least the reason that Kulkarni, whether taken alone or in combination with McCormack or the other art of record, fails to teach or suggest Applicants' invention as recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

7.   Independent claim 14 recites: "[a] network management node connected to one or more networks ... comprising: ... a database storing information related to a plurality of network devices in said one or more networks, wherein said plurality of modules are operable to receive filter information including at least one selected filter criteria; retrieve network device information based on said filter information from said database; and create a visual representation of said network device information, said visual representation including two or more network segments each visually distinguishable from any other network segment included in the visual representation, wherein said visual representation of each of said network segments comprises a plurality of network devices which satisfy

said selected filter criteria, and which is physically connected to a same wire." (*See*, Applicants' claim 14, above.)

8.   Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 14 is allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons as those noted above with reference to claim 1. Specifically, for the reasons noted above, Kulkarni, McCormack nor the other art of record, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach of suggest "modules ... operable to receive filter information including at least one selected filter criteria; ... and create a visual representation of said network device information, said visual representation including two or more network segments each visually distinguishable from any other network segment included in the visual representation, wherein said visual representation of each of said network segments comprises a plurality of network devices which satisfy said selected filter criteria..." as recited in Applicant's claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 14 should be withdrawn.
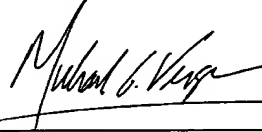
9.   Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 is allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons as those noted above with reference to claims 1 and 14. Specifically, for the reasons noted above, Kulkarni, McCormack nor the other art of record, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach of suggest "receiving filter information including at least one selected filter criteria; ... and creating a visual representation of said network device information, said visual representation including two or more network segments each visually distinguishable from any other network segment included in the visual representation, wherein said visual representation of each of said network segments comprises a plurality of network devices which satisfy said selected filter criteria, and which is physically connected to a same wire..." as recited in Applicant's claim 17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 17 should be withdrawn.

10.   The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them a fortiori and independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the dependent claims are patentable over the art of record at least for the same reasons as those noted above.

Conclusion

11.   In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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